



25X1A

	(IN 83789)	S E C R E T	PAGE TWO
--	------------	-------------	----------

1:40	612	20	-33	606	1010	635	201
1:50	584	20	-33	606	1000	702	193
1:57 1/2	564	20	-35	604	990	752	146
2:20	506	20	-35	588	950	900	247
2:30	482	20	-35	584	930	964	356
2:51	432	20	-35	562	880	1091	120
2:59	414	20	-35	562	880	1142	230
3:29	344	20	-37	548	860	1339	230
3:41	318	20	-	-	-	1420	211
3:57	282	20	-	-	-	1524	301

ST. DES PRED

4:08 257

HI CONE PRED

4:23 227

END OF MSG

S E C R E T

EDWARDS AFB, CALIF.--A HIGH ALTITUDE AIR FORCE U2 SIMILAR TO THE TYPE WHICH HAS FLOWN SKY SPY MISSIONS IN THE PAST CRASHED TODAY ON A TEST FLIGHT, KILLING A LOCKHEED TEST PILOT.

THE CRASH AREA THREE MILES NORTH OF THIS BASE WAS BLOCKED OFF. ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REFERRED ALL INQUIRIES TO LOCKHEED CALIFORNIA CO. LOCKHEED BUILT THE U2 AND STILL CONDUCTS TESTS FOR WEATHER EXPLORATION AND OTHER FACTORS.

THE PLANE WAS SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN WHICH FRANCIS GARY POWERS WAS SHOT DOWN OVER COMMUNIST TERRITORY IN 1960.

POWERS WAS TRIED AS A SPY BUT WAS LATER RELEASED AND PERMITTED TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE WENT TO WORK FOR LOCKHEED ON ITS U2 PROGRAM.

HOWEVER, IT WAS LEARNED POWERS WAS NOT AT THE CONTROLS OF THE PLANE IN TODAY'S ACCIDENT.

OTHER U2S HAVE BEEN USED FOR MISSIONS OVER CUBA AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. CHINESE NATIONALISTS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO FLY THEM.

IN A BRIEF PREPARED STATEMENT, LOCKHEED ANNOUNCED:

"AN AIR FORCE U2 FLOWN BY A LOCKHEED TEST PILOT CRASHED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON NEAR EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE DURING A ROUTINE TEST FLIGHT. THE PILOT WAS INJURED FATALLY. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PILOT WAS WITHHELD PENDING NOTIFICATION OF NEXT OF KIN."

ASKED TO DEFINE WHAT A ROUTINE TEST FLIGHT CONSISTED OF, A LOCKHEED OFFICIAL SAID IT INVOLVED "TESTING THE FUNCTION OF THE AIRPLANE."  
HE DID NOT EXPAND.

4/26--GE658P

CPYRGHT

Sent

2/10Z

25X1A

☐ HERE

HAVE TALKED TO A J. INITIAL NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO DCI ETC.  
ALL INFORMAL SINCE ACCURATE DATA NOT AVAILABLE. PLS GO  
AHEAD WITH ANYTHING YOU HAVE. WE CONCERNED WITH ANY INFO  
RE: ALTITUDE AT EJECTION AND PARACHUTE.

25X1A



WOULD RATHER TALK ON PHONE IF POSSIBLE K

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP74B00836R000300030010-4

Approved For Release 2002/06/18 : CIA-RDP74B00836R000300030010-4